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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137785

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, RW
SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: -GENOCIDE" AT
SPECIAL SESSION ON RWANDA

REF: GENEVA 4478

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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GENOCIDE IN UNHRC RESOLUTION

2. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL, PARA 17, THIS CABLE CONTAINS GUIDANCE FOR THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UNHRC SPECIAL SESSION ON RWANDA ON THE USE OF THE WORD -GENOCIDE" TO DESCRIBE EVENTS IN RWANDA. THE DELEGATION IS AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO A RESOLUTION THAT STATES THAT -ACTS OF GENOCIDE- HAVE OCCURRED IN RWANDA OR THAT -GENOCIDE HAS OCCURRED IN RWANDA." OTHER FORMULATIONS THAT SUGGEST THAT SOME, BUT NOT ALL OF THE KILLINGS IN RWANDA ARE GENOCIDE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE 1948 GENEVA CONVENTION IE.G. -GENOCIDE IS TAKING PLACE IN RWANDA-1 ARE AUTHORIZED. DELEGATION IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO THE CHARACTERIZATION OF ANY SPECIFIC INCIDENT AS GENOCIDE OR

TO AGREE TO ANY FORMULATION THAT INDICATES THAT ALL KILLINGS IN RWANDA ARE GENOCIDE.

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3. U.S. DELEGATION IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE WITH CANADIANS AND OTHER WEOG DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE U.K. AND FRANCE, INSERTING LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THAT GENOCIDE OR ACTS OF GENOCIDE MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RWANDA. OUR INTENT IN DOING SO IS TO MAKE THE RESOLUTION A CREDIBLE ONE: TALKING ABOUT RWANDA WITHOUT USE OF THE WORD GENOCIDE COULD BE CRITICIZED AS ARTIFICIAL.

GENOCIDE IN U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

4. U.S. SPEECH AS REVISED (SEPTTEL) CONTAINS REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE ACTS OF GENOCIDE. THE STANCE THE USG WISHES TO TAKE CONCERNING GENOCIDE IS THAT TERRIBLE EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN RWANDA, INCLUDING MASS KILLINGS. A SPECIAL RAPPOREUR IS BEING ESTABLISHED TO SHED LIGHT ON THOSE EVENTS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT GENOCIDE OR ACTS OF GENOCIDE HAVE OCCURRED. ANY STATEMENTS OR RESPONSES TO PRESS QUESTIONS SHOULD MAKE THE POINT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SHOCKED BY THE KILLINGS

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IN RWANDA AND HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO CREATE A UN
MECHANISM FSPECIAL RAPPOREUR AND MONITORST TO INVESTI6ATE
THE SITUATION. ACTS OF GENOCIDE MAY WELL HAVE TAKEN PLACE
THERE, BUT WE ARE AWAITING THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR'S
INVESTIGATION BEFORE MAKING DETERMINATIONS OF THIS KIND.

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5. MISSION SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH DEPARTMENT ON
RESOLUTION ELEMENTS RELATED TO GENOCIDE, PARTICULARLY TO
THE EXTENT THAT PROPOSED FORMULATIONS DO NOT FALL WITHIN
ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.
CHRISTOPHER

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